

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: MAVROS' COMMENTS ON GREEK POLITICAL SCENE

DURING COURSE OF RECENT LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE WITH THE
AMBASSADOR GEORGE MAVROS MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS
THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT:

1. HE MAINTAINED THAT ANDREAS PAPANDREOU REALLY HAS NO
INTENTION OF RETURNING SINCE HE IS ENJOYING HIS PRESENT
WAY OF LIFE ABROAD. THE SCANDINAVIANS AND THE DUTCH
HAD BECOME DISENCHANGED WITH HIM, EVEN VAN DER STOEL
WAS OPENLY OPPOSING HIM. ACCORDING TO MAVROS HE IS NOW
EVEN MORE SHARPLY ANTI-AMERICAN AND TALKS OF NEED FOR
GREEK NATIONALIZATION OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION IN PRECISELY
SAME TERMS AS THOSE USED BY GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY.
FINALLY, ACCORDING TO MAVROS, PAPANDREOU DRINKING MORE
HEAVILY THAN EVER. (EMBASSY HAS HEARD THIS FROM OTHER
SOURCES AS WELL.)

2. MAVROS REVEALED THAT HE AND KANELLOPOULOS HAD BEEN
APPROACHED TO FORM A COMMON FRONT BY THE VARIOUS WINGS
OF THE GREEK COMMUNISTS AND LEFT (EDA) BUT SAID THEY
REJECTED SUGGESTION BOTH OUT OF CONVICTION AND BECAUSE
SUCH A FRONT WOULD STRENGTHEN POSITION OF THE PRESENT
REGIME, PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE ATHENS. DEPT WILL NOTE
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THAT FORMER ERE AND CU LEADERS APPARENTLY IN POLITICAL

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE LEFT. MAVROS DESCRIBED ILIOU OF EDA AS "VERY ASTUTE" AND WELL AWARE OF DIFFICULTY, IF NOT IMPOSSIBILITY, OF ANY COLLABORATION WITH PAPANDREOU.

3. COMMUNISTS HAVE INSTRUCTED THEIR STUDENT FOLLOWERS TO DESIST FROM OVERT RESISTANCE TO THE REGIME. MAVROS ADDED THAT CU IS KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, PERHAPS IMPLYING A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT POSTURE. MAVROS ASSERTED PAK WAS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE STUDENTS. THERE WERE ALSO QADHAFI AND MAOIST

ELEMENTS TRYING TO INFLUENCE STUDENT. HE CONCLUDED UNIVERSITY PROBLEM CONTINUED TO BE SERIOUS AND ANTICIPATED FURTHER CAMPUS DISTURBANCES.

4. IN REPLY TO MY INQUIRY WHETHER HE SEEING SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES HERE, HE SAID SOVIET EMBASSY NOT ACTIVELY INVOLVING ITSELF IN POLITICAL CONTACTS OR AT THIS JUNCTURE PUSHING CONCEPT OF NATIONAL FRONT. IN PAST, HE SAID, THEY HAVE USED FIRST CZECH AND THEN HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

5. AVEROFF TOLD MAVROS HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT BY THE REGIME, BUT REFUSED WHEN THEY WOULD NOT MEET HIS CONDITIONS.

6. HE WONDERED WHERE THE REGIME EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE SCANDALS AND CORRUPTION OF THE PAPADOPOULOS GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAD. AFTER ALL, HE ADDED, ARMY AND OTHERS COULD JUSTIFIABLY ASK WHERE WAS D. IOANNIDES DURING THIS PERIOD WHEN THE SCANDALS OCCURRED.

7. ON CYPRUS, HE THOUGHT DEATH OF GRIVAS MIGHT SIMPLIFY MATTERS FOR MAKARIOS AND EASE SITUATION BUT HE WAS DOUBTFUL THAT VIOLENCE WOULD CEASE. IF TURK AND GREEK CYPRIOTS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, REMAINING DIFFICULT PROBLEM WOULD BE THAT OF GUARANTEES. HE DID NOT THINK MAKARIOS COULD COME TO GREECE AS THE NATIONAL LEADER BECAUSE "GREECE WAS TOO COMPLICATED."

8. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE POSSIBLE COURSE OF
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DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY, NOTING THE NEW GOT'S STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD NOT COUNT ON NATO ALONE FOR ITS DEFENSE.

9. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS ANY RESIDUAL SENTIMENT FOR KING OR THAT KING FOR HIS PART HAD ANY ROOTS REMAINING IN GREECE.

10. HE CONFIRMED THAT DEMETRACOPOULOS HAD TELEPHONED TO

ARRANGE LOCAL APPOINTMENTS FOR CODEL FRASER.

11. COMMENTING ON BLACKOUT OF LOCAL NEWS IN PRESS,
MAVROS ASSERTED EVERYONE, INCLUDING ARMY, NOW LISTENING
TO FOREIGN BROADCASTS, PRIMARILY DEUTSCHE WELLE. TASCA

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